MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

held at 225 Swanston street, Melbourne on 19th March 1984, commencing 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. R. Harper	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. M. Sevior	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

Apologies for absence received from

Mr. J. Mitchell, Mr. B. H. Macintosh, Mr. G. J. Simm

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Board meeting held 6th February 1984, having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting and adopted.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Long

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Minute 4.ii - Submission made to and acknowledgment from Minister for Local Government administering Weights and Measures Act supporting application from Bendigo Trading Co-operative for special consideration relating to members only sales was tabled.

3.ii Minute 11 - Submission made to Registrar Co-operative Societies for the Review of Financial Institutions Enquiry was tabled.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i From G. J. Simm submitting resignation from the Board.

The Board directed

(a) The resignation be accepted with regret.

(b) Mr. Simm be thanked for his contribution to the Board and the Federation.

(c) The Chairman, Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative be advised of the Board's appreciation of the opportunity to work with Mr. Simm

Moved Mr. Harper
Seconded Mr. Long

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The Board further directed

That an invitation be extended to Mr. I. Symons to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Simm whose term expires at the 1986 Annual General Meeting.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Slattery

The Board directed the Executive Officer to ascertain the future intentions of Mr. Rigby and Murray Goulburn Co-operative Dairy concerning his position on the Board.

4.ii From Secretary, North Eastern Co-operative advising of appointment of Mr. A. W. Goulding as General Manager to succeed the late Mr. Berry.

4.iii From Malaysian Co-operative Agencies re the study visit of Housing Co-operatives in Melbourne on 13th April 1984. In view of the absence on leave of the Executive Officer on that day, Mr. Rundle agreed to welcome the group to the study session at 10 a.m. at Chateau Melbourne Hotel, Lonsdale Street, to be conducted thereafter by the Co-operative Registry, Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society, Federation of Housing Co-operatives.

5. FINANCIAL

A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1.7.83 to 29.2.84 and the estimated Balance Sheet as at 29.2.84 was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Long

6. SERVICES

6.i Bulk Fuel Purchasing

The Board received a formal report from the Committee appointed to consider this proposal. After due consideration the Board adopted the Committee's recommendations that

(1) the bulk fuel purchase proposal be discontinued at this point of time;

(2) that local Co-operatives liaise continuously with the possibility of two or three coming together for bulk purchasing through one of them

6.ii Central Banking

The ANZ Bank having offered the Federation access to its automatic funds transfer to enable a central banking scheme to operate have advised that no interest will be payable on creditor funds maintained in the primary account.

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The Board resolved

Not to pursue studies of the project with the ANZ Bank and to continue discussions with the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association with a view to developing a wholesale banking service for Co-operative Federation members.

The Board directed the Executive Officer to ascertain the exact exemptions from relevant duties enjoyed by V.C.C.A. and Co-operative Federation of New South Wales Central Banking schemes.

6.iii Group Insurance

10 responses received from 60 questionnaires issued to members. Of these, 3 are agents of and a further 2 are insured by Co-operative Insurance Company. 15 types of policies were covered in the response. The Board accepted specialist advice that the response to date is inadequate to pursue outside enquiries and directed

Action should be taken to obtain a broader response to the questionnaire.

7. EDUCATION

7.i Directors' Seminar

31 Directors participated in the March 1984 Training Seminar which all agreed to have been well presented. The Board was advised a waiting list of 27 names is being held of interested participants in a repeat course.

The Board resolved

The Directors' Training Seminar be repeated on June 13th and 14th 1984, at the same venue, following the same programme, with changes in speakers, as required by the Course Director.

Moved Mr. Slattery
Seconded Mr. Rundle

7.ii Participants in American Co-operatives Summer Institute

The Board was advised that delay in forceful promotion had been occasioned by the late arrival of the information required from the U.S.A., which had travelled surface mail rather than air mail. Indications are that 2 nominees from Western Australia and 2 from Victoria will nominate through the Federation for registration at the Summer Institute with travel arrangements being organised independently.

8. 1984 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Board agreed the following programme

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Official Opener:		Mr. Justice Kirby
	Subject:	Adapting to Changing Times
Panel:		Representatives from - Victorian Employers' Federation Trades & Labour Council Common Ownership Company - Modern Maid
	Subject:	Changing Emphasis of Industrial Relations
		Chairman Keith Glover
Registrar, Co-operative Societies	Subject:	Matters Affecting Co-operatives - experiences gain from overseas visit
Speaker to be selected	Subject:	Functions and members' expectations of capital in their Co-operative in the 1980's
Mr. Leon Randolph	Subject:	Co-operative member and corporate relations in the 1980's.

Social hour - with wine and cheese.

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9. LEGISLATION

Mr. Rundle reported that the Legislation Committee met as directed by the last Board meeting and considered interstate and international research is required to enable a comprehensive recommendation to be advanced for Board policy development on Co-operative capital gains and effects of inflation on asset backing of Co-operative shares.

The Board accepted the request for deferment of submission of recommendation pending completion of relevant research.

Mr. Slattery offered his services as an additional member of the Legislation Committee in this particular study project.

10. INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The Board agreed to defer discussion on this agenda item until its next meeting.

11. EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Paper presented by the Minister Employment & Training on 20th February to Employment Co-operative representatives outlining future policy of the Programme, having been circulated to Board Members, was discussed.

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The Board noted the revised conditions of funding applicant Co-operatives. The Board was advised that of 23 groups who participated in the first Intenders Course, organised by the Preston College of T.A.F.E., 4 have been selected to proceed to the new enterprise course.

12. MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION

The Executive Officer reported he had attended two meetings of this Committee. Among matters considered were:

Better Co-operative image for Registry & Minister for Co-operatives

Draft Position paper summarising submissions to

Legislative Review Committee and relationships

Trade Unions vis-a-vis Co-operatives

Research into Co-operative Education Institutions in

Australia and Overseas

Models of development of soundly structured Worker Co-operatives

State Seminar on Co-operation

International Conference on Co-operation in Melbourne

Establishment of Co-operative Bank

13. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

This Council met on 17th February and agreed that, following the formation of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Co-operation, in future it would meet on an 'as required' basis. The recommendation of guarantees under Section 219 of the Co-operation Act 1981 will, in future, be handled by Registry officials following guidelines laid down by the Council.

14. CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Chairman reported the Council met on 23rd February 1984 in Sydney. After receipt of meeting papers 6 days before the meeting he considered he should attend.

The Board resolved

The action of the Chairman in attending the Council meeting of the Co-operative Federation of Australia in addition to Mr. Macintosh voting representative and the Executive Officer non voting attender be confirmed.

Moved Mr. Slattery
Seconded Mr. Rundle

Mr. Black advised that a Co-operative Bank sub-committee was formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Warne, N.S.W., to include representation from Victoria.

The Board resolved

That subject to availability Mr. Slattery be the representative of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. on the CFA Co-operative Bank sub-committee.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Sevior

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Matters considered by the Council included:

(1) Reduction of contribution to International Co-operative Alliance from $3,250 per annum to $200 per annum.

(2) Co-operative Bank proposal.

(3) Development of uniform Co-operative legislation in all Australian States.

(4) Establishment of Unit/Property Trust.

(5) Establishment of Farmer Co-operative Service in Federal Department Primary Industry.

(6) Promotion of National Co-operatives Superannuation Scheme.

(7) Programme of Assistance for State Federations.

The Council agreed the next meeting of State Federation Executive Officers be in Adelaide in June/July and the next meeting of Council be held in Brisbane August/September.

Mr. Rawlinson reported on the meeting of Executive Officers held in Sydney prior to the Council Meeting.

15. VICTORIAN TRADING CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The administration and registered office of this Association was transferred to the Federation's office on 1st March 1984.

16. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Rawlinson reported on attendance at the following meetings since the last Board meeting.

2 meetings	of Ministerial Committee on Co-operation
1 meeting	Co-operatives in TAFE Colleges
1 meeting	Funding Committee, Ministry Employment & Training
1 meeting	Co-operative Societies Advisory Council
1 meeting	CFA Executive Officers
1 meeting	CFA Council
1 meeting	Bulk Fuel Committee
1 meeting	Legislation Committee
1 meeting	Board of Directors, Bendigo Trading Co-operative
2 days	Directors' Training Seminar

He reported that the nomination of Bendigo Trading Co-operative to the Federal Govt. Department of Industry and Commerce 1983 Small Business Awards had been disallowed because it did not fall within the definition of 'small business' as used in the Awards Programme.

The Board resolved

That action be taken to endeavour to remove this discrimination against Co-operatives.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Sevior

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The Board authorised leave of absence for the Executive Officer from 9th April 1984 to 11th May 1984 inclusive for four weeks annual leave plus Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that currently it appears that Co-operatives are excluded from the provisions of the Small Business Development Corporation Act.

The Board resolved

That action be taken forthwith to remove this anomoly.

Moved Mr. Sevior
Seconded Mr. Slattery

18. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Monday, 21st May 1984 at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne commencing 4 p.m.

19. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.20 p.m.